



UP to the MINUTE

November
2023

Executive Director -
Danielle Sirianni
The Frederick Group

Michigan County Social Services Association
115 W Allegan, Ste. 200, Lansing, MI 48933
517.371.5303 | mcssa@mcssa.com

INSIDE

- President's Message
message from MCSSA
- President Grenae Dudley.
- Events Calendar
- MCSSA monthly meetings
and more important dates.
- Meeting Minutes
- Annual Conference -
Minutes
- Listen & Learn
- Legislative Conference -
Save the Date



President's Message: November 2023

2023-2024 Officers

*Grenae Dudley-White -
Oakland, President*

*Allan Bruder - Presque Isle,
Vice-President*

*Shelley Boehmer - Life
Member
Immediate Past President*

Christy Hilgers - Houghton

*Sandy Cook - Ionia/Montcalm,
Treasurer*

Wayne Buskirk - Life Member

District I
*Linda Kinnunen - Baraga
Jamie Lemay - Marquette*

District II
*Naomi Deo - Montmorency
Tammy Emig - Oscoda
Don Bartosh - Alpena*

District III
*Wayne Buskirk - Life Member
Yvonne Hebert - Wexford*

District IV
Bob VanderZwaag - Ottawa

District V
Barb Hanneke - St. Clair

October is a huge substance use prevention awareness month. Many of you may already know that the DEA celebrates Red Ribbon Week during this month in recognition of one of their DEA agents who was killed in the line of duty. In response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, angered parents, and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction caused by drugs in America. Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the nation, reaching millions of young people each year. This event takes place annually from October 23 — October 31. Additionally, October 28 is the National DEA Take Back Day. This is an opportunity to rid your home of unwanted, unused, and expired pills. To protect our ground water, please do not flush unwanted or unused pills down the toilet or throw them in the trash. Log onto the DEA website to locate a take back location near you.

<https://apps2.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/SEARCH-NTBI>



We are also preparing for elections. The local elections are very important so please encourage your communities to register and vote. We may see new commissioners and other elected officials that we will need to get to know and share the importance of the work we do for MDHHS. After the elections it may be a great time to arrange to meet with your County Commissioner. At our annual meeting we shared information that you can present. Our MCSSA staff will be able to update resources that come into your counties and states that are relevant. Let's see how many presentations for our county commissioners we can schedule for 2024.

Please email the MCSSA office to get your updated information and let them know the dates you have scheduled to present. The more we share with them the better informed they are about the duties and responsibilities of MDHHS. This may also be an opportunity to invite them to our upcoming legislative conference.

WE ARE ON A MISSION!

District VI
Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Harry Wilson – Jackson

To attend any meetings via Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4565476684>

Large County Representatives
Bruce McCoy – Kent
Vacant – Macomb
Sherrie Ross – Oakland
Vacant – Wayne

Meeting ID: 456 547 6684
Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Members at Large
Janice Covey – Mecosta
Twanetta Ingram – Ingham

Minutes respectfully submitted by Danielle Sirianni, Frederick Group.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION
AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - MONDAY NOVEMBER 6TH**

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2023

11/3 – Finance Committee Audit – in person or zoom @10am
11/6 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
(NEW DATE)
11/8 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @
10:30 am
11/10 – Office closed – Veterans Day celebrated.
11/23 – Office closed – Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER 2023

12/12 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
12/13 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)
12/24 – Office closed – Christmas Eve
12/25 – Office closed – Christmas Day

JANUARY 2024

1/1/24 – Office closed – New Year’s Day
1/9 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
1/10 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)

FEBRUARY 2024

2/13 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
2/14 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @
10:30 am

MARCH 2024

3/12 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
3/13 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am & Board of Directors @ 9:30 am (NEW TIME)

APRIL 2024

4/9-4/10 – Legislative Conference

MAY 2024

5/7 – Development & Education Committee @ 1:00 pm & Legislative Committee @ 2:30 pm
5/8 – Advisory Committee @ 8:00 am, Executive Committee @ 9am & Board of Directors @
10:30 am

SEPTEMBER 2024

9/15-9/18 – Annual Conference



Michigan County Social Services Association

Development And Education Committee Minutes

October 10, 2023 @ 1:00 pm

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa

Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm

Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee

Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle

Christy Hilgers – Houghton

Kendra Spanjer – Ottawa Director

Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) **Call to Order** – Bob VanderZwaag, Chairperson @ 1:03 pm
- 2) **Review of Minutes** -August 8, 2023– motion by Sandy Cook, seconded by Allan Bruder. Motion carried.
- 3) **Approval of Agenda** –motion to accept by Sandy Cook, seconded by Allan Bruder. Motion carried.
- 4) **Ongoing Business** –
 - a. **Annual Conference Review:**
 - i. Conference Finance report - the total number of attendees was 74, this includes speakers. Exceedingly, high number of rooms in the room block, an offer was made by the hotel to lower the number, but that was too low, needed more rooms than offer. A total of \$6000.00 was paid for unused rooms. After everything is added and subtracted, \$1000 over cost was the end result.
 - ii. Evaluations – Overall the evaluations were positive. Average 4. Or higher on most all categories: satisfaction, facility, workshops, events, speaker, etc. We did receive feedback on ideas of future speaker topics.
 - iii. Mt Pleasant Comfort Inn location – Several directors stayed elsewhere. They don't like the hotel. Some evaluations gave the hotel a low grade as well. An
 - idea to add facts about the room block and rates on registration, to let members know what is offered and why we need them to stay at said hotel.
 - iv.-Food – Evaluations had mixed results, some liked, some so-so, and some disliked.
 - iv. Speakers – Most all evaluations, gave high marks to Dr. Eileen Wilson, Joseph Sowmick and Robin Grinnell. Good marks were given to Eric Hufnagel, Dwayne Haywood, and Demetrius Starling. Mixing up the districts was very popular (Eileen Wilson's presentation).
 - v. Silent Auction – went well, some items didn't have a bid and was brought up that it may be a good idea to "be present to win". As one item had a bidder that wasn't there at the end and never paid for item. We would have to ship any prize to the winner.
 - vi. It was brought up that it would be an idea to hold the Annual Conference in the UP, Mackinaw Island, etc.
 - b. **Listen and Learn** -dates and topics scheduled.
 - October 23, 2023 @ 1:00 pm-
 - Domestic Violence presented by Renee Courier Aumock, Bay County DHHS Director, flyers have been sent out.
 - Additional topics for future Listen and Learn sessions:
 - Ideas that were mentioned were: Fentanyl presentation by the State Police.
 - c. **Update on web site**
 - Danielle Sirianni showed a preview of what the web site is looking like, so far.
 - Working on sending the designers all the updated information to add. The committee liked what they saw, thus far.
- 5) **New Business**
 - a. Legislative Conference – April 9th & 10th, 2024
 - i. Double Tree Hotel (formally the Radisson) and Heritage Hall are booked.

- ii. Planning, it will be here sooner than we think. TFG to make an appointment to meet with the hotel and get plans started.

6) Adjourn

Motion by Allan Bruder, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, Motion carried @ 1:50 pm

The next meeting will be **MONDAY, November 6, 2023** @ 1:00 pm Via Zoom or in person

Legislative Committee Minutes

October 10, 2023 @ 2:30 pm

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa
Ceylon Bettis - Saginaw
Katie Zeiter - DHHS
Tasha L. Welch - DHHS
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Yvonne Hebert - Wexford/Missaukee
Sharon Campbell – Oakland
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Allan Bruder – Presque Isle
Danielle Sirianni – TFG

- 1) **Call to Order** – Sharon Campbell @ 2:32 pm
- 2) **Motion to accept agenda** with no corrections, motioned by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
- 3) **Motion to approve minutes** from August 8, 2023, motion by Allan Bruder, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
- 4) **Updates & Information**- nothing presented.
- 5) **Updates from External Meeting Participants:**
 - i. MI League for Public Policy, nothing presented.
 - ii. E & T, Yvette Harris, nothing presented.
 - iii. MDHH Legislative Affairs Division, Katie Zeller updates us that the Apropos Act is gone through, and Section 250 packets are needed. They are waiting on Legislative packets before starting pilots. They are large font and have disposable headphones and are in 3 different languages.
- 6) **Legislative Bills Update**, Danielle Sirianni informed the committee that its slow going on bills. She refreshed us about what Sine Die is again and we will just have to wait and see what will happen.
- 7) **Pending Legislation Information**, recommendations, and updates
 - a. Child & Family Services
 - i. HB 4841 (foster care licensing; support bill from legislative committee)
 - ii. HB 4919 (establishes a bill of rights for the homeless; committee recommends support with amendments to voting rights (cannot register in multiple counties/jurisdictions)
 - iii. HB 5027 (requires dept. to establish pre-natal care standards under medical assistance program)
 - Bill discussion: language amended to include and clarify non-invasive and invasive definitions; people may be denied services due to non-clarity on the issue.
 - Support with recommendation that blood test and cervical exam would be considered invasive (perhaps?)
 - The department would be able to establish standards for pre-natal care to a wide variety of the population.
 - No caveats to support from the legislative committee.

- b. Standard of Living -No pending legislation, Marijuana bill hasn't been dropped, nothing happening at this time.
- 8) **Unfinished Business** – nothing currently
- 9) **New Business** – nothing currently
- 10) **Adjournment** –Motion to adjourn was made by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried. Sharon adjourned the meeting @ 3:11 pm

Next meeting will be **MONDAY, November 6, 2023** @ 2:30 pm via Zoom or in person

Advisory Committee Minutes

October 11, 2023 @ 8:00 am

In Attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa
 Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
 Allan Bruder – Presque Isle
 Christy Hilgers – Houghton
 Danielle Sirianni – TFG

Sherrie Ross – Oakland
 Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee
 Demetrius Starling - MDHHS
 Grey Skudlarick – TFG
 Nancy Peacock – TFG

- 1) **Call to order** by Allan Bruder @8:02 am
- 2) **Motion to approve minutes** from August 9, 2023, by Christy Hilger, seconded by Yvonne Hebert, motion carried.
- 3) **Motion to approve Agenda** with no changes by Chrysy Hilger, seconded by Sandy Cook, motion carried.
- 4) **MDHHS updates from Dwayne Haywood** was not in attendance.
- 5) **MDHHS updates from Demetrius Starling:** They find that providing concrete and economic support up front for basic necessities helps keep families intact. Funding is provided by departments and philanthropic groups. Very concerned about on-site sleep deaths of babies who sleep in bed with adults. Six in the past month and over 240 so far in 2-23. Trying to educate parents of the risks to babies who sleep with them. There are still struggles with staffing in some areas. They are using social media to reach younger candidates and making on-campus visits to child services as a noble profession.
- 6) **Unfinished Business** – District reports
 - a. District 1 – Christy Hilgers - They plan to consult with Mike Frederick re: investing our money to earn interest; Our district president is reaching out to counties who are not MCSSA members at this time.
 - b. District 2 – Allen Bruder - next meeting is at the end of November.
 - c. District 3 – Lake County will host the next quarterly district meeting.
 - d. District 4 – Bob VanderZwaag -nothing currently.
 - e. District 5 – no update.
 - f. District 6 – Sherrie Ross – nothing currently.
- 7) **Unfinished Business** - nothing currently
- 8) **New Business** – nothing currently
- 9) Moved by Sherrie Ross to adjourn and seconded by Bob VanderZwaag.
 - Meeting adjourned at 9:18 am

Next meeting will be November 8, 2023 @ 8:00 am

Board of Directors Minutes

October 11, 2023 @ 10:30 am

In attendance:

Bob VanderZwaag – Ottawa
Christy Hilgers – Houghton
Sandy Cook – Ionia/Montcalm
Barb Hanneke – St. Clair
Danielle Sirianni – TFG
Nancy Peacock – TFG

Allan Bruder – Presque Isle
Sharon Campbell – Oakland
Yvonne Hebert – Wexford/Missaukee
Mike Frederick – TFG
Grey Skudlarick – TFG -intern

1. **Called to order** by Allan Bruder @ 10:31 am in absence of President Grenae Dudley.
2. **Motion to accept** August 9, 2023, minutes, moved by Barb Hanneke, second by Sharon Campbell, motion carried.
3. **Motion to accept** the agenda was made by Sharon Campbell, seconded by Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
4. **Announcements/Correspondence** – Danielle Sirianni highlighted “What We Have Done” sheet, that was in a letter sent via email on 10/11/2023. She stated that we have closed the financial book for the last fiscal year, finishing annual conference wrap-up and preparing for Legislative Conference.
5. **President’s report** – Grenae Dudley was unable to attend.
6. **Treasurer’s report** – Sandy Cook stated that a couple mistakes were corrected and the final fiscal year balance sheet is good. Motion to approve was made by Yvonne Hebert and seconded by Barb Hanneke, motion carried.
7. **MCMCFC Report/NACo Liaison** – Renee Beniak was unavailable.
8. **Advisory Committee Report** was given by Allan Bruder, he gave an update on the meeting and stated that Demeterius Starling reported that there are less children in foster care, less in congregated childcare, but there is an uptick in infant deaths over the last year.
9. **Legislative Updates** – Sharon Campbell
 - HB 4841 (foster care licensing; support bill from legislative committee),
 - Motion to support made by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
 - HB 4919 (establishes a bill of rights for the homeless; committee recommends support with amendments to voting rights (cannot register in multiple counties/jurisdictions), motion to support made by Sharon Campbell, seconded by
 - Christy Hilgers, motion carried.
 - HB 5027 (requires dept. to establish pre-natal care standards under medical assistance program). Bill discussion: language amended to include and clarify non-invasive and invasive definitions; people may be denied services due to non-clarity on the issue. The department would be able to establish standards for pre-natal care to a wide variety of the population. Motion to support Barb Hanneke, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.
10. **Development & Education Committee** – Bob VanderZwaag
 - Conference Review: Evaluations were mostly positive; general summary was very good, most common discrepancy: distaste for location of conference. The room issue may need to be resolved for future conferences; they need to be closer to the conference room being used. Bob VanderZwaag said that it was good to award scholarships, Janice Covey had to leave the conference, Bob step in to present and said it was a highlight of the conference. The Frederick Group did a nice job with the conference. The total number of

attendees was 74 including speakers. When all income and expenses were calculated, we spent approximately \$1000 over our income. We were obligated to pay a total of \$6000 for unused rooms. The contract signed several years ago reserved a block of rooms that far exceeded the number needed in 2023. When we asked to reduce that number prior to the conference, an offer was made by the hotel to lower the number, but that offer would not have provided us with enough rooms. No middle ground was offered. We decided to stay with the original number, rather than having people unable to obtain rooms at the conference rate.

- Legislative Conference: Will be held April 9-10, 2024, at The Double Tree by Hylton (formally The Radisson) and Heritage Hall are booked. The registrations will be ready to mail out earlier than in past years. We will touch base with the hotel and start planning.
- 2024 Annual Conference: Bob VanderZwaag and The Frederick Group will discuss a time to travel to Traverse City to visit facility. We will also be looking for the 2025 location for the annual conference.
- Listen and Learn: Will be held on October 23, 2023 @ 1pm. Renee Aumock will be the presenter, the topic is Domestic Violence. We are looking for topics for January's Listen & Learn.

11. **Finance Committee** – Allan Bruder, informed the Board that an audit will be conducted

With the finance committee scheduled for November 3, 2023 @ 10 am, this will be in person or zoom. It was supported that the money in the cash flow account should be invested into a certificate for 1 year, TFG will put monies in a 5% or above certificate. \$90,000 was supported as the amount to be invested. Motion to invest \$90,000 into 1 year CD with the maximum rate: may need to transfer money from checking account to cash flow to cover minimum balance was made by Christy Hilgers, seconded by Sharon Campbell, motion carried.

12. **Committee/Liaison Reports**

MAC – Bob VanderZwaag, informed us that the next meeting will be October 23, 2023.

MCAH/Michigan Health Policy Forum – Shelley Jipson-Lomax was not in attendance.

Michigan Overdose Date Action Committee – Grenae Dudley was unable to attend.

13. **District Reports:**

District 1 – Christy Hilger reported that Mike Frederick will be consulted about interest earning CD for their District account. Christy Hilgers also stated that they were reaching out to non-member counties.

District 2 – Allan Bruder reported that their last meeting was in July and the next meeting will be held in October and it will be held in Gaylord.

District 3 – Yvonne Hebert reports that the next meeting will be held in Lake County on November 15, 2023.

District 4 – Bob VanderZwaag – nothing to report, no meeting scheduled at this time.

District 5 – Barb Hanneke reported that they met at the annual meeting and some districts areas struggle with transportation. Their next meeting will be later in October. They are trying to educate residents about how MCSSA assists in their member counties.

District 6 – not available

14. **Unfinished business** –

Website update – Continuing to work on revising the new website. Danielle Sirianni showed the most current “work in progress”.

Logo – keep working on Logo: come up with some different ideas that don't involve MCSSW.

District Map – Asking the board to investigate all versions of the district map and bring evidence to the next meeting. Send option 1 map to the rest of the board for input and potential approval.

15. **New business –**

The Legislative Conference – April 9-10,2023, to be held in Lansing, MI.

Next month's meeting will be held November 6 & 8, 2023. November 7, 2023, is election day and the committee agreed to move the meeting that should be on the 7th to November 6th.

- Motion to except new date was made by Bob VanderZwaag, seconded by Allan Bruder, motion carried.

Development & Education and Legislative meetings are November 6, 2023, and Advisory (8 am), Executive Committee and Board of Directors will be 9:30 am on months that do not include executive committee meetings, 10:30 am on months with Executive Committee meetings; November 8, 2023.

SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE
2024 MCSSA/MCSSCET LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



APRIL 9th & 10th, 2024
DOUBLE TREE HOTEL
(Formally the Radisson Hotel)
Lansing, MI